

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing simultaneous access between a storage drive and a plurality of blade servers, the method comprising:

configuring the plurality of blade servers to simultaneously connect with the storage drive, wherein the plurality of blade servers is managed by a management system and the storage drive is coupled to the management system;

each blade server of the plurality of blade servers simultaneously routing data packets between the management system and the blade server; and

the management system managing simultaneous access of the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive, including routing the data packets received from the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive.

2-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a management system;

a storage drive connected to the management system; and

a plurality of blade servers managed by the management system,

wherein each blade server of the plurality of blade servers is configured to simultaneously connect with the storage drive and route data packets between the management system and the blade server, and wherein the management system manages simultaneous access of the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive, including routing the data packets received from the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of blade servers is configured to have a separate interface for communicating with the storage drive.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein each blade server of the plurality of blade servers simultaneously routes data packets between the management system and the blade server in accordance with a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the storage drive is one of a diskette drive or a CDROM drive.

26-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the plurality of blade servers to simultaneously connect with the storage drive includes configuring each of the plurality of blade servers to have a separate interface for communicating with the storage drive.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein each blade server of the plurality of blade servers simultaneously routing data packets between the management system and the blade server includes each blade server routing data packets to and from the management system in accordance with a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the storage drive is one of a

diskette drive or a CDROM drive.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein:

the storage drive is a remote storage drive relative to the management system, the remote storage drive being coupled to a remote system that is in communication with the management system through a network; and

the management system managing shared access of the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive includes the management system uploading an applet to the remote system, the applet establishing a connection between the remote storage drive and each blade server of the plurality of blade servers.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for providing simultaneous access between a storage drive and a plurality of blade servers, the computer program comprising computer executable instructions for:

configuring the plurality of blade servers to simultaneously connect with the storage drive, wherein the plurality of blade servers is managed by a management system and the storage drive is coupled to the management system;

each blade server of the plurality of blade servers simultaneously routing data packets between the management system and the blade server; and

the management system managing simultaneous access of the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive, including routing the data packets received from the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the computer executable instructions for configuring the plurality of blade servers to simultaneously connect with the storage drive include computer executable instructions for configuring each of the plurality of blade servers to have a separate interface for communicating with the storage drive.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the computer executable instructions for each blade server of the plurality of blade servers simultaneously routing data packets between the management system and the blade server includes each blade server routing data packets to and from the management system in accordance with a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 42, wherein the storage drive is one of a diskette drive or a CDROM drive.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 42, wherein:
the storage drive is a remote storage drive relative to the management system, the remote storage drive being coupled to a remote system that is in communication with the management system through a network; and

the computer executable instructions for the management system managing shared access of the plurality of blade servers to the storage drive include computer executable instructions for the management system uploading an applet to the remote system, and the applet establishing a connection between the remote storage drive and each blade server of the plurality of blade servers.